

Docket No. AT9-98-464

**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method in a software component for processing a data object in a data  
2 processing system, said method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:  
3 sending a query for a meta definition of a data object; and  
4 processing the data object according to attributes in the meta definition for the  
5 data object.

1 2. The method according to claim 1 further comprising, before querying for a  
2 meta definition of a data object, determining an object type of a data object.

1 3. The method according to claim 1 further comprising receiving the meta  
2 definition for the data object prior to the step of processing the data object.

1 4. The method according to claim 1 wherein the software component is in a  
2 client.

1 5. The method according to claim 1 wherein the query for the meta definition for  
2 the data object is sent to a Meta Data Service.

1 6. The method according to claim 1 wherein the meta definition is cached to  
2 improve the performance of the Meta Data Service.

1 7. A method in a software component for processing a data object in a data  
2 processing system, said method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:  
3 receiving a query for a meta definition of a data object; and  
4 sending a meta definition of a data object in response to the query for the meta  
5 definition.

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- 1 8. A method according to claim 7 further comprising storing at least one meta  
2 definition of a data object.

- 1 9. A method according to claim 7 further comprising at least one object attribute  
2 in the meta definition of the data object.

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B3

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of subscribers. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them.

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7  
A

add a  
add B8